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MR 80-67 #2
By DOTY Date 9/3/81

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 26, 1959

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT
(Monday, 25 May 1959 at 10:55 a.m.)



1. I asked the President whether he wished to proceed as usual with the National Security Council meeting this week. He indicated that he did.
2. I discussed the Record of Actions of the NSC meeting of May 21 with the President. I pointed out that we had suggested that the Record contain a note of the President's suggestion with respect to bringing increased numbers of Russian undergraduate students to the U.S. colleges and universities and the Vice President's suggestion for consideration of inviting on a selected basis increased numbers of members of the Soviet "managerial class" to visit the U.S. I reported to the President that these actions would involve a change of existing policy with respect to East-West Exchanges and that I had asked the Planning Board to review the present policy on an urgent basis. I also reported that the Record of Actions directed a study by the State Department of this matter. The President said that he did not wish staff studies made and did not wish the Planning Board to concern itself with his suggestion, and that of the Vice President. He said that he put the idea out for consideration of his principal advisers and if they did not like it, he would just forget about it. I asked the President if he was sure that his recollection was correct to the effect that some time ago he asked Mr. J. Edgar Hoover whether the act of bringing 10,000 students to this country would cause him any difficulties. I said that my impression would have been that Mr. Hoover would not be happy about such a proposal. The President stated emphatically that his recollection was clear and that Mr. Hoover said that this kind of thing would not only not add to his difficulties but he felt it was one of the most hopeful suggestions he had heard in a long time.

I then indicated to the President that we would eliminate references in the Record of Actions to a Planning Board review based on the student suggestion and that we would also eliminate the directive to the State Department for a staff study.

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With respect to the item involving increased food production in underdeveloped areas of the Far East, I suggested to the President that we also include Asia and eliminate the specific reference to chickens. I reported that the OCB machinery had already started on an urgent study of this problem.

3. I asked and received the President's approval of Mr. McElroy's nomination of Deputy Secretary Gates as a member of the 5412/2 Group to succeed the late Donald A. Quarles.

4. I also asked and received the President's approval of the designation of Major General Daniel S. Campbell, USAF, as the Special Assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff for National Security Council Affairs to succeed Rear Admiral Charles O. Triebel, USN, effective on or about August 1, 1959.

5. I discussed with the President several 5412/2 projects which are the subject of a separate memorandum.

6. I then reported to the President on a long meeting I had had with Acting Secretary Gates and Admiral Radford on Saturday, 23 May. We had discussed at length the four Defense presentations and Mr. Gates had assured me that he would see that the Defense Department proceeded with all of them. Mr. Gates had indicated to Admiral Radford and me, that he found himself faced with five immediate splits in the JCS. They involved: the Taiwan Defense Command, the NIKE-HERCULES-BOMARC dispute, the question of putting POLARIS missiles on surface ships, the recommendation for a single Strategic Strike Command, and the matter of proceeding with nuclear aircraft development. I pointed out to the President that of these, neither the Taiwan Defense Command nor nuclear aircraft development seemed to be specifically matters for the NSC. However, I had pointed out to Mr. Gates that whatever his recommendation was with respect to POLARIS would have to be specifically approved by the President as a matter of NSC action. I had pointed out also to Mr. Gates that the NIKE-HERCULES-BOMARC problem was squarely within the study of Continental Defense and that the Strategic Strike Command could well be involved in the Defense presentation on the targeting system and the mix of weapons systems.

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7. I then discussed with the President the memorandum from the Acting Secretary of State dated May 21 on the subject of Military and Non-Military Countermeasures in the Berlin Crisis. The President asked me to say that he felt that it was all right to submit the study to an interallied group at a rather low staff level but not to be put forward as a US position. He thinks the matter could then be studied by the group with recommendations to their respective governments.

Gordon Gray

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